MISCELLANY.

The Law's Delay.—Some people are bold enough to say that our court procedure don't need any reform. But it ought not to be possible to find a record of such a case as was ended in a New York court the other day. After 23 years a judgment was awarded Michael Donnelly for $48,000. Meanwhile there had been seven trials, ninety-three lawyers, forty-eight judges and 249 witnesses involved in the litigation. Donnelly had spent $186,000 in pressing the case and when he got his judgment was still out $138,000. In these years sixteen judges sat in the case at one time or another, thirteen lawyers and forty-three witnesses have died. Donnelly says it has wrecked his life.—The Bar.

Law School Clinic.—The college trained young lawyer is now in the spotlight of educational controversy. It is admitted that a course in a school of law is indispensable, but it is also agreed that young men fresh from law classes lack something of importance which those who were graduated in the old days directly from a lawyer's office possessed. The educators are not very explicit in naming the "lacking qualities." Perhaps the student spends too much time with his books and not enough in the court room. One facetious critic thinks the law schools ought to put in a course on Starvation, original research work to be required the first five years after graduation. As a substitute for this graduate work in Starvation, Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown, of New York University, and some of his university associates, suggest a solution of the difficulty through statutory provisions under which law school graduates, fresh from their studies, might practice in certain courts under supervision analogous to that to which the hospital interne is subjected. It has even been suggested that a special court might be constituted for the purpose, in which such supervised practice might, in certain classes of cases, be provided gratuitously for clients who are unable to pay. Humanity has managed to struggle along with the medical interne. Why not give the young lawyer his chance at hospital practice?

Apropos to this suggestion it is reported that senior students in the Law School of the University of Minnesota are detailed to serve the free legal aid bureau of the Minneapolis Associated Charities, and in this practical laboratory the future lawyers get their first real hard knocks in their profession.

The young men take complete charge of the cases assigned to them, up to the point of appearing in court, where they are represented by a lawyer who is an instructor in the school.—Case and Comment.

A learned Judge in New Jersey in a recent address before the Lawyers Club of Newark, N. J., makes the following just criticism of many opinions written by American judges:

"The opinions of the judges are apt to read like lawyers' briefs or essays. They often read as if the judge had just looked up the law and thought it necessary to cite authorities for the most firmly settled propositions. The English opinions read as if the judge knew the existing state of decisions and assumed that everyone else did, and that it was his business to show necessary development from established principles and their application to the particular case. The opinions are shorter and more directly to the point, based more upon the reason of the thing and rely less upon the multitude of precedents. We encumber our reports with the citations of case after case, repeating the decision of legal principles about which nobody has any doubt, with the risk of misleading counsel by slight variations in the forms of expression, and wasting time by the cumulative citation of cases, where one authoritative case that settles the law is quite enough.

Judge Lamm in Forrister *v.* Sullivan et al (Mo.), 132 S. W. 722, in speaking of the defendants in error said: "They had a last shot left in their locker." Is that what they call it in Missouri, or does a locker have a different meaning from what it does under our system?

IN VACATION.

Confession and Avoidance.—A rural preacher at the conclusion of a sermon said:

"Let all in the house who are paying their debts stand."

Instantly every man, woman and child, with one exception, arose. The preacher seated them and said:

"Now, every man not paying his debts stand."

The exception noted, a care-worn, hungry-looking individual, clothed in his last summer's suit, slowly assumed a perpendicular position.

"How is it, my friend," asked the minister, "that you are the only man not able to meet his obligations?"

"I run a newspaper," he meekly answered, "and the brethren who just stood are my subscribers, and—"—The Echo.

"Civil Courts."—She: "I thought you said this was a civil court?"

He: "So it is."

She: "Why, those horrid lawyers in it were as rude as they could be."